

PATENT

Serial No. 09/773,422

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of April 26, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 7-10 without prejudice:

1 1. (Previously Presented) A method of reconfiguring software
2 in a communications system, the method comprising:
3 a first communications station transmitting a software
4 reconfiguration message to a second communications station;
5 the software reconfiguration message including indicia which
6 is useable by the second station to estimate how long it will take
7 to reconfigure itself;
8 the second station receiving the message and using the indicia
9 estimates its reconfiguration time;
10 the second station sending a message giving an indication of
11 the reconfiguration time to the first station; and
12 the first station, in response to determining the
13 reconfiguration time, waiting until after the time has elapsed
14 before using the reconfigured software in communication with the
15 second station.

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1 2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1,
2 further comprising: the second station storing the maximum time
3 required for reconfiguration, wherein the indicia sent in the
4 software reconfiguration message is used to determine what
5 proportion of that time will be required to implement the
6 reconfiguration.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2,
2 wherein the maximum reconfiguration time of the second station and
3 fractions of the maximum reconfiguration time are stored in a ROM
4 and the indicia in the software reconfiguration message are used to
5 provide a ROM address.

1 4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1,
2 further comprising: the second station storing estimates of
3 reconfiguration times of each software layer of a plurality of
4 software layers, wherein the indicia in the software
5 reconfiguration message relate to a particular software layer to be
6 reconfigured.

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1 5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in any one of
2 claims 1 to 4, wherein, for a plurality of second stations, at
3 least two second stations have different maximum reconfiguration
4 times.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in any one of
2 claims 1 to 4, further comprising: the first station reconfiguring
3 its configuration software relating to the software reconfiguration
4 message by the expiry of the reconfiguration time.

Claims 7-10 (Canceled)

1 11. (Previously Presented) A communication system, comprising:
2 a primary station including
3 a first transceiver,
4 a first processor, and
5 a first store for storing configuration software;
6 and
7 at least one secondary station, wherein each secondary
8 station includes
9 a second transceiver,

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10 a second processor,
11 a second store for storing configuration software,
12 means for reconfiguring at least some of the
13 configuration software in the store,
14 means for estimating the reconfiguration time on the
15 basis of indicia included in a reconfiguration message transmitted
16 by the primary station, and
17 means for transmitting the reconfiguration time to
18 the primary station.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 11,
2 wherein the first processor in the primary station includes timing
3 means for causing the configuration software in respect of the
4 secondary station to be reconfigured by the expiry of the
5 reconfiguration time transmitted by the secondary station.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in claim 11,
2 wherein each secondary station includes a non-volatile memory
3 storing at respective locations the maximum software
4 reconfiguration time and predetermined fractions of the said
5 maximum reconfiguration time; and

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6 wherein the primary station includes means for including a
7 memory location information in said indicia.

1 14. (Previously Presented) A station, having comprising:
2 a transceiver;
3 a processor;
4 a store for storing configuration software;
5 means, responsive to an external message, for reconfiguring
6 software in the store; and
7 means for estimating a reconfiguration time in response to
8 indicia in the external message and for causing the transceiver to
9 transmit the estimated reconfiguration time.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The station as claimed in claim 14,
2 further comprising a non-volatile memory storing at respective
3 locations the maximum software reconfiguration time and
4 predetermined fractions of the said maximum reconfiguration time
5 representing estimates, wherein one of said estimates is selected
6 in response to the received indicia.